

Group II – Literacy, Graduation Rates, and A+ Program
July 28, 2003

I. Enhance the Quality of Teaching in Missouri's Middle and High Schools

Recommendations

- A. Require teachers of core subjects (communication arts, mathematics, science, social studies, fine arts and health/physical education) in middle and high school to have a major in the subject area.
- B. Implement an apprenticeship program for new teachers – combining mentoring by a master teacher in the content and presentation of teaching materials with teaching experience.
- C. Class content should be taught within a real world context – a case study approach that embeds examples found in a variety of workplaces.
- D. Increase funding for school districts as student performance on MAP improves from one year to the next.
- E. Customize each teacher's development plan and learning community to focus on the building subject matter competency.

II. Increase Literacy in Missouri by Engaging People to Participate in Literacy Programs.

Recommendations

- A. Imbed literacy instruction in all adult training programs.
- B. Promote workplace competencies of job seeking candidates through workforce readiness credentials (WorkKeys) and promote a common credentialing system for Missouri.
- C. Utilize the Missouri Career Center to identify people in need of literacy training and make referrals to existing literacy programs.
- D. Require higher education institutions to develop and promote literacy programs in the communities that they serve.
- E. Encourage Missouri businesses to promote the benefits of literacy in the workplace.
- F. Provide literacy training opportunities for all people receiving public assistance.

III. Increase the High School and College/University Graduation Rates by XX Percent.

Recommendations

- A. Utilize the High Schools that Work standards statewide and financially reward outstanding school district performance.
- B. Tie the High Schools that Work standards to the A+ Schools initiative.
- C. Teachers/Professors should be required to do periodic externships with business and industry to gain a better understanding of how to contextualize course content.
- D. Career options should be embedded into the instruction of course content at the high school and college levels.
- E. Core competencies needed to succeed in the workplace should be embedded in the content of courses at the high school and college levels.
- F. High schools and colleges/universities should partner with business/industry to implement job mentoring/shadowing programs for students.
- G. Eliminate social promotion of students from one grade to the next.
- H. Institute a standard community college entrance exam (Work Keys?) for evaluating a student's general education (core competencies).